

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01 AGR-05

INT-05 /099 W

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R 171938Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4215

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA PROPOSES HOSTING SISTEMA ECONOMICO LATINO-AMERICANO (SELA)

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 3796 (B) STATE 126782

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO ARA POSTS, CINCO, TOKYO

1. ON JUNE 16, EMBASSY RECEIVED FROM MINISTRY FOREIGN RELATIONS OBVIOUSLY CIRCULAR NOTE NO. DOT-1963, DATED JUNE 10, 1975, ANNOUNCING THAT PANAMA WAS HOSTING A FOUR-DAY REGIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE BEGINNING JULY 28 TO ESTABLISH SELA, INITIATED LAST YEAR BY MEXICO AND VENEZUELA.

2. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF SAID NOTE SIGNED BY FOREIGN RELATIONS MINISTER JUAN ANTONIO TACK:

"I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO CALL A MEETING AT THE LEVEL OF MINISTRIES OF ECONOMY, PLANNIFICATION OR ITS EQUIVALENT,
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TO STUDY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC

SYSTEM (SELA) AND THAT IT TAKES PLACE IN THE CITY OF PANAMA FROM MONDAY, JULY 28 FOR A DURATION OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR DAYS. "AS YOU ARE AWARE IT IS THE JOINT IDEA OF THE EXCELLENCIES THE PRESIDENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA AND MEXICO, WHICH PANAMA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION HAVE SUPPORTED WITH MUCH ENTHUSIASM. "I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOUR EXCELLENCY WOULD INFORM ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE DECISION YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN REGARDING ITS PARTICIPATION IN SUCH AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY..."

APPARENTLY THIS IS A GOP OVERSIGHT AS IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THE PROPOSED SELA WOULD EXCLUDE THE U.S. HOWEVER, THERE IS POSSIBILITY US GOVERNMENT COULD CONSIDER PARTICIPATION AS OBSERVER. COPY OF CIRCULAR NOTE BEINGFORWARDED TO WASHINGTON, THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ARE REQUESTED AS TO HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND IN CONSIDERATION OF PARA 4 OF REF B.

3. SO FAR, LOCAL PRESS JUNE 15 CARRIED AP REPORT FROM MEXICO CITY THAT MEXICAN MINISTRY FOREIGN RELATIONS RECEIVED SIMILAR NOTE FROM MINISTER TACK.

4. COMMENTS: PANAMANIAN ARE PUSHING HARD FOR SELA HOPING PANAMA CITY WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME ITS SEAT, ENHANCING THEIR STATURE IN LATIN AMERICA THEREBY. NO DOUBT THIS WOULD BEST SERVE THEIR INTERESTS TO FURTHER THEIR CANAL ZONE ASPIRATIONS. THEY ALSO PROBABLY CONSIDER THAT SELA COULD BE A USEFUL MECHANISM FOR ENCOURAGING CREATION OF LA MULTINATIONAL GROUPING TO EXPLOIT THEIR MINERAL RESOURCES AND BANANA PRODUCTION. JORDEN

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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